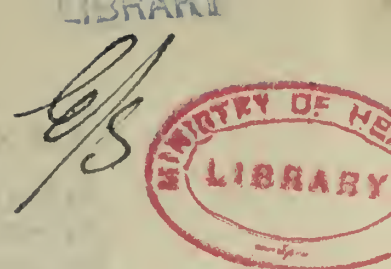


HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1941.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council:-

Gentlemen,

The following are the Vital Statistics for the year 1941,

STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area (in acres).....3,850
 Number of inhabited houses.....5,307
 Rateable Value.....£135,937
 Sum represented by a penny rate.....£540

VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Birth-Rate.</u>
Legitimate.....	143	158	301	
Illegitimate.....	11	6	17	15.0
			318	

<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>			
Legitimate.....	3	4	7
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-
			7

STILL BIRTH RATE.....0.3

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Death-Rate</u>
	111	122	233	11.0

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

Legitimate.....	8	10	18
Illegitimate.....	1	-	1
			19

INFANT MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 births)..... 56.3

For the purpose of comparison, the rate for the smaller towns of England and Wales are given:-

	<u>Smaller Towns of England & Wales</u>	<u>Hitchin.</u>
Birth Rate.....	16.4	15.0
Death Rate.....	13	11.0
Infant Mortality Rate.....	56	56.3
Stillbirth Rate.....	0.6	0.3

The chief causes of death were as follows:-

Vascular Disease.....	75
Pulmonary Disease.....	31
Malignant Disease.....	32
Tuberculosis.....	9
Influenza.....	4
Measles.....	1
Infantile diarrhoea.....	1
Premature Births etc.....	10
Violence including Road Traffic.....	12

There were no deaths from Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, or associated with Child-birth.

The Death Rate is low, the Infant Mortality Rate quite good, and the Birth Rate slightly above the average, so that the figures for the year are satisfactory.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following cases of Notifiable disease were notified during the year:-

1. Scarlet fever.....	20
2. Diphtheria.....	6
3. Cerebro Spinal Fever.....	5
4. Measles.....	377
5. Whooping Cough.....	100
6. Erysipelas.....	2
7. Chicken Pox.....	15
8. Pneumonia.....	13
9. Puerperal Pyrexia.....	5
10. Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	4
11. Typhoid.....	1
12. Paratyphoid.....	1

The epidemic of measles in the early part of the year was widespread, but fortunately most of the cases were mild. The puerperal cases were in the maternity homes now in the district, and the fact that no deaths occurred is very creditable to the Maternity work as a whole, including the work of doctors and nurses.

During the year an immunisation campaign against Diphtheria was carried on. In this, the local doctors, infant welfare centres and minor ailment clinic assisted, with the result that over 70% of children were immunised. The work is being kept up weekly at the Minor Ailment Clinic on Thursdays, and at the Infant Welfare Clinic, The Maples, on Mondays. Up to the present we have had no Diphtheria cases among immunised children and no bad effects.

SCHOOLS.

Routine school inspection has been carried on. School dinners and milk for the children certainly seem to be an excellent thing and well worth all the labour involved on the teachers. I am beginning to hope that even now and more than ever after the War, education will begin on the firm foundation of a more natural treatment of children, in which a good physique will be the first consideration.

I remain,
Your obedient servant

NORMAN MACFADYEN, MB., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF. 1941.

Medical Officer of Health & School Medical Officer (Part-time).

NORMAN MACFADYEN, MB., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

WILLIAM H. BATES, M.S.I.A., Certs R. San. Inst.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

HUGH TOWNSON, M.S.I.A. Certs.R. San. Inst.

(up to the end of June 1941)

NORMAN HOLT. M.S.I.A. A.R. San. I. Certs. R. San. Inst.
(from August 1941)

Clerical Staff.

PERMANENT

ROGER W. KNAPE. (serving with the R.A.F.)

TEMPORARY

ROGER TAYLOR (up to the end of June 1941)

ALFRED BRIGHTMAN (up to the end of June 1941)

ROY J. SHARP. (from July 1941)

Offices:-

Medical Officer of Health:-

123, NORTON WAY, LETCHWORTH.

Sanitary Inspector:-

NEW TOWN HALL, BRAND STREET, HITCHIN.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.
for 1941.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present an Annual Report of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors for the year ending December 31st, 1941.

Owing to present conditions, various routine work had to be curtailed during the year, but the most important matters were given constant attention. A considerable amount of time was spent on Meat and Food Inspection at the two Ministry of Food slaughterhouses, the Herts & Beds Co-operative Bacon Factory, and the various foodshops and food stores in the town.

I wish to thank all the Council's officials for their co-operation during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

N.HOLT.M.S.I.A. A.R. SAN.I.

Sanitary Inspector.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' VISITS & NOTICES SERVED
DURING THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER, 1941.

GENERAL

<u>SANITATION.</u>	Water Supply-----	32
	Drainage-----	43
	Stables & Piggeries-----	10
	Public Conveniences-----	3
	Fried Fish Shops-----	16
	Theatres & Places of Entertainment-----	2
	Outworkers-----	4
	Bakehouses-----	44
	Refuse Collection-----	105
	Refuse Disposal-----	65
	Dustbins-----	38
	Rats & Mice-----	61
	Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits-----	76

HOUSING -
PUBLIC HEALTH
ACT.

	Number of houses inspected-----	57
	Number of visits paid to above houses-----	36
	Number of houses visited re overcrowding-----	36
	Vermin - Number of houses inspected-----	27
	- Number of visits to above-----	63
	- Number of rooms disinfested-----	32
	Miscellaneous Housing Visits-----	9

INFECTIOUS
DISEASES.

	Inquiries re cases of I.D.-----	22
	Visits re Disinfection-----	16
	Miscellaneous I.D. Visits-----	53
	Visits re Scabies-----	6

MEAT & FOOD
INSPECTION.

	Visits to slaughterhouses-----	745
	Visits to other premises re meat inspection-----	23
	Visits to shops and stalls-----	48
	Visits to Fishmongers & Poulterers-----	23
	Visits to Cowsheds-----	34
	Visits to Dairies & Milkshops-----	51
	Visits to Restaurants-----	20
	Visits to Food Preparing Premises-----	16

NOTICES
SERVED

	Number of informal notices served-----	61
	Number of informal notices complied with-----	61

ACTION TAKEN UNDER HOUSING ACTS 1919 - 1936

DEMOLITION OF HOUSES NOT CAPABLE OF REPAIR

None.

REPAIR OR RE-CONDITIONING OF UNFIT HOUSES CAPABLE OF REPAIR.

During the year no extensive repairs were carried out under this section, but many minor defects were remedied by informal action.

MILK SUPPLY

There are three cow-keepers registered in the district as milk producers and 23 milk purveyors.

Inspections were made during the year under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

There are two milk purveyors licensed annually for bottling establishments and for retail sale of Tuberculin Tested milk. There is one registered purveyor holding a supplementary licence to sell Pasteurised Milk, the registered establishment being in an adjoining area.

Samples of milk have been taken and sent to the Emergency Public Health Laboratories, Cambridge, for examination. During the year 78 samples were examined with the following results:-

MILK SAMPLES. 1941.

<u>Month.</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Borderline</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
January	-	-	-	-
February	2	-	7	9
March	-	-	-	-
April	-	-	-	-
May	5	-	2	7
June	-	1	8	9
July	-	-	6	6
August	4	-	15	19
September	-	-	-	-
October	9	-	1	10
November	1	7	4	12
December	-	-	-	-
	21	8	43	72

It will be seen that of these, 43 out of 78, or 55.1% were found to be unsatisfactory. Continued efforts have been made to improve the milk supply, but the present situation with labour shortage makes this a difficult task.

Six samples were taken with the object of testing for the presence of tubercle bacilli. On examination all the samples were stated to be satisfactory.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

During the period of the War, animals are being slaughtered at two Government Slaughterhouses controlled by the Ministry of Food, and at the Herts and Beds Co-operative Bacon Factory.

The following tables show the number of animals killed and inspected during the year:-

<u>BACON FACTORY</u>	<u>Beasts.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number killed	-	-	-	51398	51398
Number inspected.	-	-	-	51398	51398
Percentage inspected.	-	-	-	100%	100%

OTHER SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Number killed	2088	6958	417	-	9463
Number inspected.	2088	6958	417	-	9463
Percentage inspected.	100%	100%	100%	-	100%

TOTAL

Number killed.	2088	6958	417	51398	60861
Number inspected.	2088	6958	417	51398	60861
Percentage inspected.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

During the year the following carcasses, offal, etc. were found to be diseased and unfit for human consumption, and were voluntarily surrendered by the owners and disposed of so as not to be used for human consumption.

<u>Bacon Factory.</u>	<u>Tubercular.</u>		<u>Other than T.B.</u>		<u>Total Wt.</u>
	<u>No.</u>	<u>wt.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>wt.</u>	<u>in lbs.</u>
Carcases or parts.	3903	54579	126	8535	63114
Offal	3043	22102	1411	9699	31801
Total	6946	76681	1537	18234	94915
<u>Ex other sources.</u>					
<u>Beasts.</u>					
Carcases or parts	226	17856	28	2133	19989
Offal	459	3934	387	4096	8030
<u>Sheep.</u>					
Carcases or parts.	-	-	31	742	742
Offal	-	-	72	225	225
<u>Calves.</u>					
Carcases or parts.	-	-	1	64	64
Offal	1	5	-	-	5
Total	686	21795	519	7260	29055
GRAND TOTAL	7632	98476	2056	25494	123970

OTHER FOODS.

The following other foodstuffs, were also found to be diseased, unsound and unfit for human consumption, and were voluntarily surrendered by the owners and disposed of so as not to be used for human consumption.

Meat from Butchers Shops-----	580 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Bacon-----	58 lbs.
Fish-----	942 lbs.
Frozen Rabbits-----	80 lbs.
Flour-----	232 lbs.
Tinned and other Miscellaneous Foods-----	486 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
258 Eggs.	

SALVAGE

MATERIALS SALVAGED DURING THE YEAR, 1941

	<u>WEIGHT</u>				<u>RECEIPTS</u>	£.	s.	d.
	tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.				
<u>PAPER</u>	257	11	2	19	1,045	14	0	
<u>METALS</u> Baled Tirs.	138	11	0	0	179	9	0	
Cast Iron	9	3	2	0	21	15	11	
Light Iron	16	8	1	0	19	0	4	
Wrought Iron & Steel	1	10	0	0	3	0	0	
Brass		7	3	21	11	3	5	
Copper		2	3	8	5	18	4	
Battery Lead		9	3	4	4	16	9	
Lead		2	1	27	2	2	1	
Rolled Aluminium		4	2	12	19	2	3	
Cast Aluminium				23		5	0	
Zinc			3	0		8	3	
Sundry Metal			1	14		6	0	
<u>RAGS</u>	7	4	1	3	112	10	5	
<u>SACKING</u>	1	1	0	0	3	3	0	
<u>RUBBER</u>		2	1	15		19	0	
<u>BOTTLES</u> 31,284 Mixed)					36	7	11	
<u>JAM JARS</u> 7,386 Mixed)	15	16	0	0	8	3	10	
<u>BONES</u>	2	4	3	24	3	0	2	
<u>DRY BATTERIES</u>	5	19	2	2	4	9	3	
<u>KITCHEN WASTE</u>	274	3	2	0	375	14	0	
	731	5	0	4	£1,862	14	4	

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The following tables show the cost of refuse collection and disposal together with the materials salvaged during the year:-

Number of loads collected-----	4,317
Estimated weight-----	5,379 tons.

Cost of collection-----	£3,063
Cost per ton-----	11/4d.

Cost of disposal-----	£606.
Cost per ton-----	2/2d.

Cost of collection and disposal-----	£3,674.
Cost per ton of collection and disposal-----	13/6d.

